

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the indication of allowable subject matter. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully urged to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

By the foregoing amendments, independent claims 1, 29, 32 have been amended. Claims 18, 28, 31, and 34 have been rewritten in independent form, and new claims 35-74 have been added.

Specification:

As requested by the Examiner, a new title has been provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112:

As requested by the Examiner, claim 3 has been amended. The amendment clarifies that the device relates to the image forming device.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101:

In response to the rejection of claims 32-34, those claims have been amended in accordance with the Examination Guidelines for Computer Related Inventions issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Specifically, the claims now define a computer readable medium encoded with a program. Such claims are considered statutory in the examination guidelines for computer related inventions.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1-3, 11-14, 29 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,914. In

addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-10, 18-28, 30 and 31 contain allowable subject matter.

In order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 19. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form, and claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1-28 should now be in condition for allowance.

In addition, claim 29 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 30 and claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form. Furthermore, claim 32 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 33, and claim 34 has been rewritten in independent form.

To further define the protection to which Applicants are entitled, new dependent claims 35-66 have been added. The new dependent claims are patentable at least for the reasons set forth above with the independent claims from which they depend.

In addition, new claims 67-74 have also been added. New claims 67 and 70 correspond to allowable claim 18, new claims 68 and 71 correspond to allowable claim 19, and new claims 69 and 72 correspond to allowable claim 28. New claim 73 corresponds to original claims 29 and 18. New claim 74 corresponds to original claims 32 and 18. Accordingly, the new claims 67-74 are also in condition for allowance.

As set forth above, the amendments to the claims have been made solely for the purposes of expediting prosecution of the application. The foregoing amendments does not indicate that Applicant has acquiesced on the merits of the prior art rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: William C Rowland
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620